

NOSTALGIA

Guy Fawkes celebrations in the city

MIKE PETTY AND JAMES MILNER LOOK THROUGH THE CAMBRIDGE NEWS ARCHIVES AT SOME OF THE STORIES FROM THIS DAY IN THE PAST

Quietest Guy Fawkes Night for many years - 1962

BONFIRE night was very quiet this year. Police appeals for people to stay away from the city centre met with a good response and the streets were almost empty.

Extensive use was made of radios and police with walkie-talkie sets moved on any groups from street corners. A university ban on students entering the city centre during the five hours before midnight was equally effective.

Major incidents were few and far between and the elaborate measures taken proved more than adequate on one of the quietest Guy Fawkes Nights for many years.

Keeping drains in working order - 1959

THE outfall of an underdrainage system is important. It must be kept open or the drain will not work properly.

A good outfall is provided when a new scheme is installed, but what about the order drains where the outfall is not obvious?

A great many drains made in the past still discharge into ditches and watercourses but their presence is hardly realised until something happens which calls attention to them.

Each year, when ditches are being cleaned, many old drains are exposed. Some of these are found because a wet patch is seen on the bank. By cleaning the mouth, it can be made to work better and a properly constructed headwall will

prevent it being lost again.

When deep wheel or track marks show that the ground is softer than it used to be, it may be that something has happened to a drain we did not know existed. Perhaps the outfall of the ditch is found to be choked with roots. To make sure this does not happen again, a properly built outfall with a headwall is needed.

Sometimes, several closely spaced pipes are found along the ditch. Some may be working though

others are quite dry. In this case, it is a good plan to make a new piped main about 11 yards from the ditch and connect each of the old drains into it. Let the end of the pipe cut out from the bank so that water will fall clear.

Strengthen the last six feet of the drains by bedding the pipes in concrete. Pipes with collars may be used instead or one length of iron pipe makes a better job.

Headwalls can be built in all sorts of material. Precast concrete headwalls are popular because they can be set in position quickly.

The end of the drain must be kept open to let the water out but it may also let vermin in. To prevent this, a grating should be placed over the end of the pipe. Whenever a new drain is put in or an old drain is found, mark its size and position on a plan. This will save time and labour in the future.

Helmet thefts just 'good-natured fooling' - 1954

POLICE helmets will be treasured possessions in the homes of undergraduates and Cambridge

'teddy-boys' who contributed to the Guy Fawkes Night high jinks.

One police constable, helmetless, went back to base for another. But in double-quick time this went too.

Frequent clashes broke out between police and revellers. In Market Square, a crowd of more than 5,000 screamed, shouted, pushed and laughed but it was "good-natured fooling."

'Teddy-girls' screamed at each bang, unsuspecting undergraduates were pounced on by proctors and 'bulldogs' and there were boos and hisses each time an untidy-looking urchin was led away, and each time the urchin would protest his innocence of throwing any fireworks.

Quiet night after undergraduates warned - 1950

ALTHOUGH four arrests - three townsmen and one undergraduate - were made, Guy Fawkes Night this year was about the quietest since the war.

Undergraduates were not as lively as in years past. The reason for the lack of activity on their part was

probably the fact that they had been warned verbally by their tutors.

Just to make sure, seven watchful proctors with their top-hatted 'bulldogs' maintained a constant patrol of the main streets

Eight arrests amid usual Guy Fawkes scenes - 1947

SIX undergraduates and two RAF men were arrested during the usual Guy Fawkes Night scenes in the centre of Cambridge last night.

From 7.30pm, crowds grew steadily on Market Hill. Fireworks were discharged freely and the din reached its peak between eight and half-past.

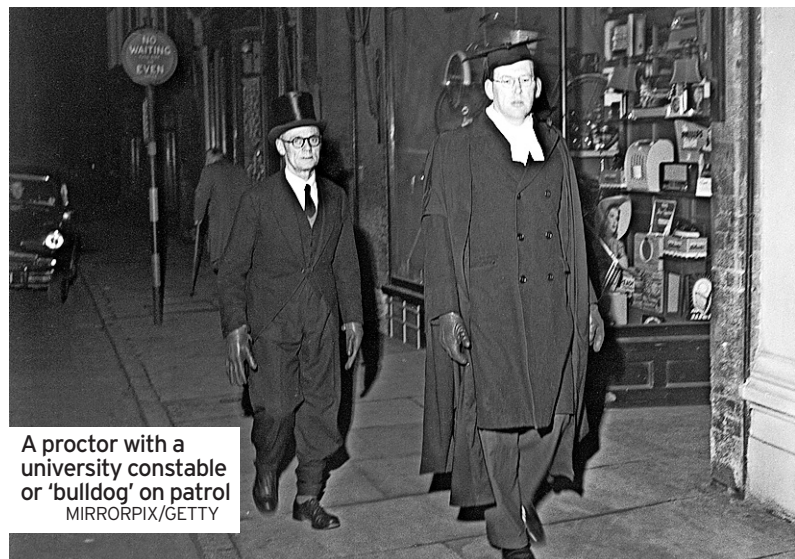
Members of the university who earlier had been outnumbered by more than ten to one were in force by nine o'clock.

Several minor scuffles occurred about this time, and the first of several policemen's helmets disappeared.

Proctors and their 'bulldogs' kept undergraduates on the move. After that, the crowd gradually thinned away, and by 1.15am there were only groups here and there.



Inspecting the 'guy' - but fireworks night celebrations in Cambridge haven't always been so innocent



A proctor with a university constable or 'bulldog' on patrol
MIRRORPIX/GETTY